

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A placement and routing method for a clock distribution circuit which receives a clock and supplies the clock to a load circuit, said method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

(a) ~~temporarily~~ placing and routing a group of driver elements having a common input capacitance to form said clock distribution circuit; [[and]]

(b) ~~until an evaluated value of clock skew becomes equal to or smaller than a target value, making a selective replacement of an~~ selectively replacing a first element belonging to said group of driver elements with a second element chosen from among a plurality of elements having [[a]] the common input capacitance and ~~selected from a group consisting of a plurality of driver elements having different driving capabilities, a driver element differing from the first element with respect to (i) driving capability, (ii) having an opened output pin,~~ [[and]] or (iii) being a capacitance element interposed between an input pin and a stable potential line;

(c) repeating said selectively replacing said first element with said second element until an evaluated value of clock skew becomes equal to or smaller than a target value.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The placement and routing method for a clock distribution circuit according to claim 1, wherein said ~~step (b) makes the selective replacement of an element belonging to said group of elements between a first driver element and a second driver element~~ second element is identical to said first ~~driver~~ element ~~and having an~~ but has said opened output pin ~~until said evaluated value of clock skew becomes equal to or smaller than said target value.~~

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The placement and routing method for a clock distribution circuit according to claim 1, wherein said ~~step (b) makes the selective replacement of an element belonging to said element group between driver element and second element is~~ [[a]] said capacitance element sharing a common input capacitance with said driver element and interposed between an input pin and a stable potential line until said evaluated value of clock skew becomes equal to or smaller than said target value.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The placement and routing method for a clock distribution circuit according to claim 1, wherein said ~~step (b) makes the selective replacement of an element belonging to said element group among a plurality of driver elements having~~ second element has a different driving capabilities capability than said first element and has a common input capacitance and having their input pin pins placed in equivalent positions and their output [[pins]] pin respectively placed in equivalent positions until said evaluated value of clock skew becomes equal to or smaller than said target values as said first element.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A placement and routing method for a clock distribution circuit which receives a clock and supplies the clock to a load circuit, said method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

(a) ~~temporarily placing and routing a group of driver elements having their input pins placed in equivalent positions and their output pins~~ respectively placed in equivalent positions as one another to form said clock distribution circuit; [[and]]

(b) ~~until an evaluated value of clock skew becomes equal to or smaller than a target value, making a selective replacement of a driver~~ selectively replacing a first element

belonging to said group of driver elements with a second element chosen from among a plurality of driver elements having a different driving capabilities capability than said first element and having ~~their~~ input pins ~~placed in equivalent positions~~ and ~~their~~ output pins respectively placed in equivalent positions as said first element; and

(c) repeating said selectively replacing said first element with said second element until an evaluated value of clock skew becomes equal to or smaller than a target value.

Claims 6 (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing a clock distribution circuit which receives a clock and supplies the clock to a load circuit, said method comprising the steps of:

(A) ~~performing a placement~~ placing and routing of said clock distribution circuit, ~~comprising the steps of,~~ said placing and routing including,

(A-1) ~~temporarily~~ placing and routing a group of driver elements having a common input capacitance to form said clock distribution circuit, ~~[[and]]~~

(A-2) ~~until an evaluated value of clock skew becomes equal to or smaller than a target value, making a selective replacement of an~~ selectively replacing a first element belonging to said group of driver elements with a second element chosen from among a plurality of elements having ~~[[a]]~~ the common input capacitance and ~~selected from a group consisting of a plurality of driver elements having different driving capabilities, differing from the first element with respect to (i) driving capability, (ii) a driver element having an opened output pin, [[and]] or (iii) being a capacitance element interposed between an input pin and a stable potential line; and~~

(A-3) repeating said selectively replacing said first element with said second element until an evaluated value of clock skew becomes equal to or smaller than a target value,

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(B) fabricating said clock distribution circuit, obtained through said ~~step of placement~~
placing and routing, in a semiconductor substrate.